An Assessment of the Missiological Potential and Limitations of Remembrance in the Context of the Church of Ireland

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation will look at the value placed on Remembrance in Northern Ireland, particularly from the viewpoint of Remembrance Sunday and the annual remembrance Service organised by the Orange Order. It will assess the potential and the limitations of the church using these events in a form of missional outreach. The bulk of the evidence will come from a range of interviewees with varying different opinions of remembrance and the Orange Order. Also used will be published material and personal experience. The Anglican Church follow what is known as the “Five Marks of Mission” and it is through this framework I will be examining each of the remembrance events mentioned above.

Chapter two will focus on the essence of remembrance and why it is important for those who are involved, the relationship between the events and the Church of Ireland. But to start things off, it looks at sectarianism and the conclusion that everyone, even the church, is connected in some way. Remembrance is often seen as being geared towards one side of the community (namely the unionist/loyalist people), therefore giving the opportunity of reaching out, in some cases, quite difficult. Mission then is somewhat at a disadvantage as a certain section of the community do not feel welcome.

Chapter three will be taken up looking a two of the five Marks of Mission and seeing how each of the remembrance events promote or obstruct the general consensus of mission as understood by the Church of Ireland. The two marks that are being examined for this dissertation are number one, the proclaiming of the Good News, and number four, community relationship through peace and reconciliation.

Finally, in chapter four will look at some of the positive out-workings of remembrance and how it can be of benefit to those attending on Remembrance Sunday and for the annual Orange Order service as well as providing a positive experience for all those connected to the church.